SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Enactment of Law for Construction Workers

3. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a long standing demand of various organsiations for enactment of a comprehensive law to provide social, welfare and security measures to construction workers;

(b) whether Petition Committee of the Lok Sabha had also recommended that a fresh comprehensive bill be prepared for consideration of Parliament; and

(c) what is Government's approach in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As recommended by the Lok Sabha Committee on Petitions, proposals of the National Campaign Committee have been examined. Further, recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour (1987—91) have also been considered. The Government is likely to come up with fresh legislative proposals on the subject shortly.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर: सभापति महोदय, क्या नेशनल कोआर्डिनेशन कमेटी जिसके जस्टिस अय्यर चेयरमैन हैं उनकी तरफ से भी कुछ प्रोपोज़ल्स आए हैं, कोई बिल आया है और अगर आपको बिल प्राप्त हुआ है तो क्या यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि उनमें से कौन सी मुख्य चीज़ें आप स्वीकार कर रहे हैं?....(व्यवधान)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, call the House to order. It looks as if they are sitting in a drawing room.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. Will the Members sit down?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Some hon. Members belonging to the other side make it a parallel drawing room. What is this?

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Sir, shall I repeat it? महोदय, एन०सी०सी० जिसके चेयरमैन जस्टिस अय्यर हैं उन्होंने भी कुछ आपके पास सुझाव भेजे होंगे जिसमें बहुत सारे जितने यूनियंस हैं उनके है, तो उसमें से कौन से खास ऐसे प्रपोज़ल्स हैं जिनको आप स्वीकार करने को तैयार हैं?....(व्यवधान)

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: I would not say that some of the recommendations have been accepted because the final thing is not yet there, but I hope to do it shortly. Two of the most important suggestions, which are being considered by the Government favourably are, one to incorporate welfare measures and second to incorporate the suggestions of having shelter for the constructions workers at the site.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर: महोदय, क्या जो स्टेट के लेबर लाज़ हैं आप उनको भी अप्लायी करेंगे या नहीं करेंगे या कोई सैपरेट लॉ उनको कवर करेगा? जो लेबर लॉज़ स्टेट्स के हैं, वे भी उनके ऊपर अप्लायी करने की आपकी इच्छा है या नहीं?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, actually there are only two State laws existing at the moment in the country. One is of Kerala, which deals with the welfare schemes. We have taken that also into consideration. The second law was enacted by the Government of Tamil Nadu, where it covers not only the construction workers, but all the manual workers with a scheme to involve the construction workers. We have gone into these two laws. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Sir, I have a serious objections. I do not know why they do it. All the Ministers are in the habit of doing it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. If you want to talk, go to the lobby and talk.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, I was submitting that as far as the construction workers are concerned, there are two State laws available in the country. One is of Kerala and another is of Tamil Nadu. We have taken both the existing laws of the State Governments into consideration and wherever we have

found them good, we have adopted them also.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्रः सभापति महोदय, सरकार ने कहा है कि बहुत जल्दी ही इसका कानून बनाने के लिए बिल ला रहे हैं, तो मंत्री महोदय को मालूम होगा कि बिल लाने में बहुत सी दिक्कतें होती हैं, बहुत टाईम लगता है तो एक शार्ट कट रास्ता यह है कि आर्डिनेंस निकाल दिया जाए तो नेक्स्ट टाईम में वह हो ही जाएगा बिल, इसलिए मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि समाज के सब से शोषित हिस्से का जिनके बारे में हम लोग अभी चर्चा कर रहे हैं उन के बारे में क्या यह सत्र समाप्त होने के बाद आर्डिनेंस ला करके आप इसको जारी कर देंगे? इससे थोड़ा वोट भी आपका बढ़ जाएगा। आप ही के लिए हम काम कर रहे हैं। इसलिए क्या आप इस काम को करेंगे?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: When the Government comes with an ordinance, the Members of Parliament oppose it. Sir, at this time when the Parliament is in session, I do not think it would be proper for me to talk about the ordinance.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I have only asked whether the Government is thinking about it or not. That is why I have suggested an Ordinance.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the hon. Minister referred to the National Commission on Rural Labour. It gives me pleasure that he still remembers about the Commission. The hon. Minister has not forgotten the National Commission on Rural Labour. It is also a great news and satisfaction to me. The fact remains that on the day the new Government came to power and Mr. Narasimha Rao became the Prime Minister, we submitted to him, the Members of the National Commission on Rural Labour, which included me.. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

श्री एस॰ एस॰ अहलुवालियाः यह लीडर आफ द अपोजिशन क्या कर रहे हैं? ऐसे ऐसे क्या बात कर रहे है? ....**(व्यवधान)**.....

SHRI M.A. BABY: Sir, the Leader of the Opposition is also of a Minister's rank. So, he is entitled.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, it is the labour who always gets a raw deal. In the House also, labour is getting a raw deal. I was a Member of the National Commission on Rural Labour. We presented the report to the new Government, to the new Prime Minister when he came into office. I distinctly remember that the hon. Prime Minister was kind enough to give us an assurance that within three months, the report of the National Commission on Rural Labour would be considered and the Government would lose no time in coming to the Parliament with a comprehensive Bill. Sir, it is not three months, but, it is more than four years which have passed, the Government is still considering it. Therefore, may I ask the hon. Minister of Labour who is now a Minister of Cabinet rank how long he is going to take to look into the pages and in between the lines and how much time he needs to come to Parliament with a comprehensive Bill for the implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour which involves 90 per cent of the labour force of the country.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to differ with the hon. Member. Construction labour does not constitute 90 per cent of the labour force of the country.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will read out from the Minister's reply. He said, "Further, recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour have also been considered." My supplementary is on the line of his reply. I am not, in any way, out of tune.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I not only remember the National Commission on Rural Labour, but I also clearly remember that the hon. Member was a Member of that Commission and a very active Member of that Commission.

Also good suggestions have come from him. When a Bill was introduced in 1988, it was felt that it was not a comprehensive Bill. The Committee on Petitions of the Lok Sabha went into it and they came out with certain suggestions. We have to consult various State Government. I am convinced that it takes time because to achieve unanimity on various proposals by all the State Governments is not an easy task. In fact, after a prolonged discussion and negotiations with them, it was only on the 18th May this year, that the Labour Ministers' agreed to this proposal. I can assure the House that it is in the final stage. I hope that by the next session of Parliament, I should be in a position to introduce the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Injuries Caused to Abducted Tourists during their Liberation Effort

*304. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the foreign nationals under abduction by the Jammu and Kashmir terrorists were injured during the effort to liberate them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have agreed to some of the demands put by the abductors, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress made so far in liberating them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Out of six foreign tourists who had been abducted by the terrorists, one had escaped and was rescued unharmed on 8.7.1995. However, one of the abducted foreign nationals was brutally killed and his body was recovered on 13.8.1995. Four persons continue to be held hostage by the terrorists. According to the State Government, it is not a fact that any of them was injured as per information available with them.

(c) and (d) The aim and effort of Government has been to try and bring about the safe release of the hostages, through a process of dialogue and persuasion and by appealing to the sense of reason and humanity among those responsible for the abduction; and to desist from doing anything that could provide encouragement to further acts of terrorism including abduction. Simultaneously, the Government have avoided any precipitate action which could jeopardise the lives of the hostages. A continuous and close watch is being kept on the situation and further steps will be taken as may be necessary keeping in view the above objectives.

Speedy disposal of Pension and Terminal Claims

*305. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has issued any instructions/suggestions to Government Departments/ Instrumentalities etc. for speedy disposal of pension and terminal claims of the pensioners through Pension Adalats;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any such Adalats have been held by the Ministries/ Departments/Instrumentalities recently; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the outcome of such Pension Adalats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The important features of the guidelines issued by the Department of Pension and Pensioner's Welfare include giving of adequate notice to Pensioners for such Adalats, wide Publicity on Radio/T.V. and in Newspapers, on-the-